

DRAFT Practical Range of Management Specifications for California's 2007-2008 Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries

COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

Specific Fishing Area Prohibitions

Proposals for changing the Cowcod Conservation Areas boundaries and for incorporating hot spots into the management specifications are still being developed.

COMMERCIAL

**** NOTE on 1/20/06: This section has some removals (shown in strike-out) and additions (underlined) that may not be accurate. Commercial options will be revised based on analysis of 2005 catch data and constituent priorities.*

To be mostly covered under the general range of commercial options; need to make sure that the following options are included:

- ⊖ Range of trip limits for deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' ~~with lower limits than 2005-06 EIS~~
- ⊖ Range of trip limits for shallow nearshore rockfish south of 40°10' ~~with higher limits than 2005-06 EIS~~
- Range of trip limits for scorpionfish with higher limits than 2005-06 EIS
- ⊖ Range of trip limits for minor nearshore north of 40°10' ~~with wider limits than 2005-06 EIS~~
- Provide lingcod nesting closure alternatives that allow lingcod to be taken in ~~April and/or November~~ and/or other closed months of priority or increase trip limits

RECREATIONAL

The California Department of Fish and Game is proposing a range of options for structuring the 2007-2008 recreational groundfish fisheries with the intent of remaining within harvest guidelines (HGs), particularly for species under rebuilding plans. This range of options includes the following:

- I. Continued non-retention of cowcod, canary and yelloweye rockfish statewide
- II. Management specifications which are structured around constituent's preferred fishing season while still providing as much fishing opportunity as possible.
- III. Alternatives that allow for more access to deeper waters paired with bycatch reduction tools (hot spots, gear restrictions)
- IV. Use of closed seasons, depth restrictions, bag limits, and size limits in combination to manage recreational catch to specified harvest limits.
Range of possible options listed below.

HANDOUT 3

revised 1/20/06 (commercial only ***)

Management Specifications to Consider Changing for 2007-2008

Seasons and Depth Restrictions

North Coast Region

Seasons: 7 - 9 months open for groundfish fishing

Depth restrictions: 0-30 fm

Status Quo: 8 months at 0-30 fm

North-Central Coast Region

Seasons: 5 - 7 months open for groundfish fishing

Depth restrictions: 0-20 fm or 0-30 fm

Status Quo: for the area between 40° 10' N. lat. and 37° 11' N. lat., 6 months at 0-20 fm

Monterey South-Central Coast Region

Seasons: 5 - 7 months open for groundfish fishing

Depth restrictions: 0-20 fm or 0-30 fm

Status Quo: for the area between 37° 11' N. lat. and 36° 00' N. lat., 6 months at 0-20 fm

Morro Bay South-Central Coast Region

Seasons: 5 - 7 months open for groundfish fishing

Depth restrictions: 0-30 fm or 0-40 fm

Status Quo: for area between 36° 00' N. lat. and 34° 27' N. lat., 5 months at 0-40 fm; Scorpionfish retention during all months when rockfish open

South Coast Region

Seasons: 9-11 months open for groundfish fishing; status quo 10 months

Depth restrictions: 0-30 fm and 0-60 fm; status quo 0-30 fm and 0-60 fm.

Permit CA scorpionfish retention during all months when rockfish open

Status Quo: 2 months at 0-30 fm and 8 months at 0-60 fm

CA scorpionfish retention for 1 month at 30 fm and 2 months at 60 fm
(not open for all months that rockfish open)

North, Central and South RLMA

- Lingcod nesting closure: 3-4 months (for spawning period within January, February, March and December)

Bag limits

Within 20 finfish bag limit, the following ranges would be analyzed with the option for differential bag limits for boat and shore anglers (with diver limits set to those of shore anglers):

- Lingcod 2-3; status quo 2 fish

Size limits

HANDOUT 3

revised 1/20/06 (commercial only ***)

Lingcod 22 -26 inches TL; status quo of 24 inches TL

Filet size limits

Lingcod filet size changed if size limit changed; status quo: 16 inches and must bear an intact 1 inch square patch of skin

Management Specifications to Consider Keeping Status Quo for 2007-2008

Bag limits

- RCG (all rockfish, cabezon, kelp greenling, and rock greenling) keep as 10 per bag with following sub-bag limits:
 - Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat. status quo 1 fish
 - Bocaccio north of 40° 10' N. lat. status quo 2 fish
 - Cabezon status quo 1 fish
 - Greenlings (all species of the genus *Hexagrammos*) status quo 1 fish
 - Black Rockfish status quo 10 fish
 - Blue Rockfish status quo 10 fish
- Scorpionfish status quo 5 fish
- "Other flatfish" status quo: 20 fish except for Pacific sanddab and starry flounder which have no bag limit

Size limits

Bocaccio status quo: 10 inches TL

Cabezon status quo: 15 inches TL

Kelp greenling (and other species of the genus *Hexagrammos*) status quo: 12 inches TL

California scorpionfish status quo: 10 inches TL

Filet size limits

All others (except lingcod): status quo

Gear restrictions

Rockfish status quo: limit of 2 hooks and 1 line

Lingcod status quo: limit of 2 hooks and 1 line

"Other flatfish" status quo: limit of up to 12 hooks, "Number 2" or smaller, which measure no more than 11 mm point to shank, and up to 2 pounds of weight per line

Specific Fishing Area Prohibitions

Farallon Islands: Status Quo

Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited between the shoreline and the 10-fm (18-m) depth contour around the Farallon Islands except that recreational fishing for "other flatfish" is permitted given the restrictions described above

HANDOUT 3

revised 1/20/06 (commercial only ***)

Cordell Banks: Status Quo

Recreational fishing for groundfish prohibited in waters less than 100 fm (183 m) around the Cordell Banks as defined by specific latitude and longitude coordinates except that recreational fishing for “other flatfish” is permitted given the restrictions described above